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Executive Registry
60-3321

22 March 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. WINNACKER, HISTORIAN, OSD

SUBJECT: Declassification of OSS Documents

CIA officials have called to my attention that you are apparently pressing them for a reversal of CIA's decision against downgrading the present classification of Volumes II and IV of the Department of State's publication Foreign Relations, 1942. It is my understanding that these documents concern OSS operations in North Africa and that CIA is opposed to their release to the public.

Although I have not seen the documents in question, I believe CIA is competent to judge the necessity for security in this case. It is reported that you have asked CIA to explain the reasons for this decision. The reasons would require giving details compounding the security problem.

Since the Secretary of Defense is involved in sensitive matters relating to the French, to the governments in North Africa, and to NATO, it is puzzling to us exactly why a member of the Secretary's staff is pressing so hard for the release of information which so obviously involves our French allies and various factions in North Africa, and which could possibly embarrass or harm current U.S. positions in discussions in Europe attended by the Secretary and other Defense officials. In plain language, Defense has a large stake in this matter and both OSD and the JCS should have their own say on this, without needing recourse to an outside agency.

DOD Directive 5148.4, 7 January 1959, states that OSO will perform the liaison for Defense with CIA. It is desired that future requests by you to CIA be routed through me, in accordance with this directive.

James B. Connelley

CHARLES S. ESKIN
General, USMC (Ret.)
Assistant to the
Secretary of Defense
(Special Operations)

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OSD REVIEW
COMPLETED

cc: Deputy Secretary Douglas
Assistant Secretary Irwin

Prepared by: ECL:adalt:14
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